

**From:** [Judith Costa](#)  
**To:** [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Conscience protection  
**Date:** Thursday, September 29, 2011 11:45:29 PM

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To the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:

I oppose the proposed definition of “religious employer.” The current definition of religious employer does not provide true conscience protection for those committed to preserving life. Healthcare plans should not be forced to violate the moral and religious convictions of providers or employees in order to participate in the health care system. Requiring such an unacceptable demand threatens both universal access to health care and religious freedom of conscience.

This law is going to mean hardships for the poor, the elderly, and the disabled who are cared for in the many religious institutions that provide for these groups. This country needs the services of these institutions. As a taxpayer, I protest this un-American law.

Judith Ann Costa